

## On the Firing Line

### THIS IS IMPORTANT

Letters and all other mail matter intended for this office should be addressed to The Menace, Aurora, Mo., and NOT to individuals. Please bear this in mind, as it will insure prompt attention to your communication and save us much trouble.

One hundred thousand subscribers for a weekly paper—good, bona fide subscribers—secured during its initial year of existence.

That's a big, doesn't it?

It would break all records for a new publication—it would be the new world's championship in subscription building. But it can be done, and we firmly believe it will be done!

By whom? By the Generals of The Menace Firing Line. They are equal to the task. And the seriousness of the conflict calls for just that kind of work.

We in The Menace office cannot do it; it is to be done by the volunteers in the field—the men and women in action. We can print the paper and care for the details of the office, but we cannot be all over the United States, personally soliciting subscriptions. With each succeeding week the fervor of the cause is more and more impressed upon us. The deeper we delve into the political intrigue of the papal forces the more determined we are to combat them. The Menace is drawing the fire of the enemy. Priests and the Catholic press are gnashing their teeth and heaping anathema upon our heads.

Let them squall!

Let them rave!

And let them deny and vilify!

We shall push our guns as far into their camp as possible. We have the ammunition of hundreds of years of damning history of their own making, and they change only when forced to.

The Menace will force the issue in America till the politico-religious aggression has been routed!

Are you with us?

If so, then spread The Menace from ocean to ocean, into every community in the land. It is the LIGHT that will point the way; it is the word that will enlighten; and under the stars and stripes we shall be free!

It is a call to all patriots, those who demand the liberty of the press, of speech, and of conscience.

The campaign is now on—The Menace will be a year old next April.

Cedar Rapids, Ia.—"Keep up your good work; it is grand and every true American should appreciate it."

Ellwood City, Pa.—"Don't allow Father Bullcon to excommunicate me and you will hear from me again soon."

Milwaukee, Wis.—"I take The Menace and am greatly pleased with it. Keep at it without fear and God help you."

Davenport, Ia.—"I always look forward to The Menace each week, and each copy is doing double and triple duty."

Cutler, Ill.—"I am so thankful The Menace is increasing her subscription list so splendidly. That is what will make the boat roar."

East Pittsburg, Pa.—"I have been reading The Menace just a few weeks and think it is the best paper published in the United States."

Cincinnati, O.—"I think The Menace is doing great work and in time will do more good than any lecture, as it is continuous and regular."

Pittsburg, Pa.—"Everyone I have given your paper to has subscribed for it, and I think it the wonder of the age. Keep the good work up."

Brainerd, Minn.—"Keep the good work going and get right after them. I was a Catholic myself for twenty years, but I have got my eyes open now."

West Allis, Wis.—"I have been a reader of your most active paper ever since it has been published, and must say you people know what you are talking about."

Blackville, S. C.—"I enjoy The Menace greatly; being raised a Catholic and educated in a Catholic school I can easily recognize the truth as printed in The Menace."

McKeesport, Pa.—"I am a subscriber to The Menace and I am very much pleased and interested in the cause for which it is fighting. So let us all put our shoulder to the wheel."

Philadelphia, Pa.—"I am still on the Firing Line, sowing seed and sowing nothing. I find on going among my friends that there are a great number who have not yet heard of The Menace."

Wolf, Cal.—"Keep up the good work and we will try and find more subs. California is surely in possession of its share of popery, but I really think that they are losing power all over the country."

Rochester, Ill.—"I was unaware of the existence of The Menace until last Thursday when an old copy was loaned to me. I immediately got busy and got the coupon filled by good Protestants."

Chicago, Ill.—"Wake up a few more of the sleeping Protestants, who are not thoughtful of the future and of the serpent that lies in wait to supplant and destroy the liberties of the American republic."

Brainerd, Minn.—"The Menace is stirring them here. Some of the Catholics sent a letter out advising us to stop, if we didn't want trouble. But they can't bluff us. Keep right after them, it's the truth and they can't stand it."

Opelika, Ala.—"Some friend has been kind enough to send me The Menace for several weeks. I am grateful to said friend for his kindness, whoever he may be, and so well pleased that I am going to work for The Menace."

Philadelphia, Pa.—"You are doing a noble and timely work and I earnestly hope that you will not only reach the fifty thousand mark, but a million. God grant that the eyes of the

American people will be opened to the dangers surrounding them."

Wabash, Kans.—"Keep The Menace going; it's doing the work. Am in a Catholic hot-bed and they hate The Menace, which is strong proof that it is pinching. If the subscribers have the backbone you have the victory is yours. The battle is on."

Cincinnati, O.—"A copy of your paper, The Menace, has come into my possession which I have read with a great deal of interest. My knowledge of the subject which you are treating causes me to be in perfect sympathy with your work. May God bless you in it."

Bremerton, Wash.—"Let the good work continue. I sincerely hope that the true American citizen will get their eyes open to the sad state of affairs and commence action to check the tide that will yet ruin our government, peace and happiness, unless some action is taken."

Bisbee, Ariz.—"I am glad to say that The Menace continues good and all the time improving. May God bless your efforts in the battle that you are waging for truth, and this great country of ours, and the principles of government that our good fathers gave us."

Elizabeth, N. J.—"I did not know so excellent and valuable a periodical existed until the other day, when a friend handed it to me to read. I have been very much absorbed in it and admire your patriotic and fearless spirit in endeavoring to protect our American principles of government and freedom."

North Tonawanda, N. Y.—"The great ruler of the universe will surely bless you in your effort, through truth and right, to spread the true light and to impress the facts relative to the encroachment of Romanism on the heedless millions of our people who claim to be loyal American citizens. Through The Menace you have already made it very plain that it is impossible to be true to Romanism and at the same time be a patriotic, loyal American citizen."

## AN UNPOPULAR VISITOR.

AT that time a man appeared at the great entrance to the Vatican. He was young, and his face, pale and thin, betrayed great sorrow and suffering. He wore a long mantle of white wool, the dress of the nomads of the desert, and from beneath the cape of the same his hair fell long and waving. It was plain that he was poor and tired; but his eyes sparkled, and a sorrowful smile played upon his lips.

As he was entering the great doorway, the gorgeously uniformed guards of the pope, dressed in red and gold, gazed at this strange individual, and one of them barred his way, saying in a very gruff voice:—"Hold on, stranger! This isn't the way to enter the palace of the great pontiff. This pilgrim halted, and answered him in a voice full of sweetness:—"I only came to see the gifts the great kings of the world have sent to the vicar of Jesus Christ."

"Well," said one of the guards, "as I see that you come from some far-away country, I'll let you in, so far as you may tell your people of the greatness and glory of our master."

And they allowed him to pass. The traveler stepped up the marble stairs, and came to the great hall paved with mosaic; rare marbles, frescoed ceilings, immense paintings covered the walls on all sides. In that palace, itself as great as a city, he beheld great rooms, filled with all kinds of treasures, so that it looked like a great bazaar, greater than those of Suza, Babylon, Cairo, Damascus, or Jerusalem. There were gifts of great value sent from all parts of the wide world; presents from kings, emperors, queens, princes, and others; rare jewels, golden vases filled with precious stones, piles of silks, velvets, and costly embroidered stuffs of all kinds, gold and diamonds everywhere.

The pilgrim looked with eager curiosity at all these treasures for a long while; his eyes sparkled with joy, and his face appeared to beam with triumph. "At last," he exclaimed, "my heart has become good and the great gift to the poor!" and turning to one of the splendidly dressed guards, he added:—"What great benefits will be done with these vast treasures! the hungry will be fed, the naked will have dresses, and the shivering poor will be warmed. Ah! blessed be those paternal hearts! Yes, those who have plenty to give to them who have not; fraternity has come at last upon the earth, and the blessings of heaven."

While the stranger was speaking in this manner, the guards near him, looking at each other, whispered:—"The poor fellow, he must be crazy."

But the pilgrim continued with warmth and animation:—"Glory be to God, and blessed be the holy man by whose hand all these riches will be given to the poor and unfortunate!"

Then, turning and speaking to them, he asked:—"And when will the distribution of all these treasures take place? I'd like to be here and see the poor made happy and contented."

"Why, man, you are dreaming!" replied one of the guards to him. "All these things belong to our great pontiff; to him alone, and he won't give any away."

"To him alone!" exclaimed the stranger excitedly; for him all of those jewels, and gold, and precious stones; all of those robes of silk, gold, and rich stuffs? Go and tell the vicar of Jesus Christ that I am hungry and thirsty, and that my robes are all in rags, while he has here enough to feed and clothe hundreds of thousands of poor men like me."

The guardsmen laughed loudly in his face.

The pilgrim folded his arms, and, looking at one of the magnificent sacerdotal vestments of the pope, embroidered all in gold, with precious stones, he continued:

"The vicar of Jesus cannot but be the father of the humble, the benefactor of the poor, the apostle of fraternity. But, alas! I see he lives in a marble palace, dressed in golden mantles, and surrounded by a court and gorgeous valets, while I go barefooted." So saying, he tore the golden

fringe from off the precious robe, and threw it on the ground, under his feet.

The guards fell upon him, and, holding his sacrilegious hands, dragged him to a dungeon. And while they were taking him there, he kept on saying:

"He calls himself the vicar of Jesus. Say to the pope go sell all them rags and give to the poor and then shall he be my disciple." On looking up, behold! the guards saw it was The Christ.

## CLARK AT HOPE, ARK.

Wm. Lloyd Clark, the anti-Roman Catholic lecturer has just finished one week of lecturing for the people of this city. He has opened more of the people's eyes than one would think could be accomplished in so short a space of time. The truth is that our people are honestly desirous of knowing the truth about all matters pertaining to the general welfare of the country, and they responded right heartily to Clark's exposition of the real character of Romanism. In his lectures he gave sketches from the lives of Margaret L. Siquel, Maria Monk, Father Ciminqui, Father Flattery, Patrick Sullivan, and others, and in every lecture made a strong appeal for an investigation of what he said that all may know his words to be true. He opened the convent system to our view and read from the Latin theology of the Roman priesthood; he gave us facts of his own experience in dealing with the pope's followers, and showed to us very clearly the foreign government that is already in active operation, governed by the pope, in the very midst of this boasted free, liberty-loving nation of ours.

The Menace will now be read by a large number of our citizens and through its columns we hope to keep acquainted with every move of the Gibbons-Ireland company crowd as they go "pussy-footing" in and out of the capitol at Washington.

Any person or set of persons wanting a thorough awakening in their town or community should send for Mr. Clark, that is if they will stand for the whole truth on the subject of Romanism. If there is danger of the Romanists entering a field, he will certainly block their entrance. They were about to build here, with Protestant money, but now there is grave doubt as to whether they will ever succeed. Some of our people were sending their children to a "parochial school," but now many of them have withdrawn their support. What he said of the "boycott" was proven true here, for the moment some of our Protestant friends refused to subscribe to their church, they were vengeance and declared a "boycott!" Certainly the American people are asleep, or they would run the Jesuits out of the country. Clark is doing his share towards accomplishing that very thing, and all of our people who know what they are, will say "Amen."

Yours for victory and one hundred thousand subscribers to The Menace, BASILE NEWTON.

From time to time The Menace is asked to send the paper free to those who are unable to pay for it, or to send out free sample copies in excess of what we are allowed to do under the postoffice regulations. Should we undertake to do this we would go broke, as a matter of course, but there is a way to solve the problem by putting two and two together.

We likewise receive small donations now and then, also odd change from money orders, checks, etc., and not infrequently the writer suggests that we use the extra money "where the pot boils lowest," so that's the way we'll do it. The Propaganda League will be composed of those who wish to push the work from here and not be known in the deal, therefore if you wish to help in the work you can contribute to this fund and the proceeds will be used to send samples into unbroken territory, put ligaments on the list and otherwise bear the torch of light and liberty.

A good friend of ours in Cincinnati forwards us a Xmas present which we appreciate very much and which will be placed in this fund and used for the purposes indicated. Here's his letter:

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 28, 1911.

A friend now in Paris to whom I wrote, and sent a copy of The Menace (a lady) wishes to aid your good work. Put the enclosed into the pot where the water is boiling lowest. Of course I mean the "Waters of Life," sometimes called also "Sineux of War."

INSIDE THE NUNNERY.

A PRESS dispatch from Naples gives the following account of what was found in an Italian nunnery which the government took the liberty to enter. We wonder what would be found in the Catholic nunneries and convents of this country if the government dared to inspect them.

"Naples—A remarkable case of religious fanaticism has just been brought to light here. In a secluded quarter stands a conventual establishment, known as the 'Nunnery of the Buried Alive,' that has been closed to all public knowledge and investigation certainly during the memory of the oldest inhabitant, and the report adds that the religious authorities have preserved the same secrecy for the last 400 years regarding what has happened within its walls and the character of its inmates. The veil, however, is at last removed and the citizens are lost in amazement that such scenes could for years have been enacted in their midst without a note of warning. The revelation now made comes through the case of a young girl, crossed in love, who entered within the convent walls. Her parents became alarmed by their inability to communicate with her, appealed to the police, and the civil authorities raided the place on an order issued by the minister of justice. The doorkeeper stoutly resisted, but was

overpowered by the gendarmes, who soon found their way into the cells, where the majority of the wretched inmates were discovered. Sixteen nuns were found in a condition closely bordering on insanity. They were scantily covered with rags, and their surroundings were filthy in the extreme. Many of the poor creatures had forgotten how to talk, and were more bestial than human in their behavior. Those who could be induced to speak, protested that they were perfectly satisfied with their fate. The young girl for whom the quest was made, was found reduced to a mere skeleton. Her parents were nearly crazed. The establishment has, of course, been closed, and the victims removed to one of the public institutions, where they will be well cared for. The governor of Naples has ordered the fullest investigation, with the view of punishing those who shall be found to be responsible."

## ALWAYS THE SAME.

So you think the Roman hierarchy is not an enemy of this nation and its popular institutions? Have you read history—Catholic history? The hierarchy claims it is always and everywhere the same—that it does not change with every wind.

In his "pastoralia," Pope Clement V. March, 1314, thus refers to a sentence of Henry VII. of Naples, against Robert, a vassal of the Roman See:—"We annul it in virtue of the uncontested supremacy which the holy see possesses over the empire, and of the right which belongs to the head of the church, to administer the empire during the interregnum, and by that plenitude of power which the successor of St. Peter has received from Jesus Christ, the king of kings, and lord of lords."

To claim that right, then, which was exercised by many popes, it necessarily follows that they claim the right now, and that the only reason they do not exercise it is because they have lost control of any military power strong enough to enforce it. That is why they are organizing a great military army in the United States of the Knights of Columbus and other secret and traitorous societies.

Pope John XII. excommunicated the kings of Austria and Bavaria, declared the throne vacant and set up a pretender that would bow to the pope. Rome never changes. She is the enemy of every government that does not bow the knee to his majesty, the pope.

THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE

In the schools of the United States there are, in round numbers, 10,000,000 pupils.

Those are big figures, fraught with meaning. France, Austria, Hungary, Russia and Italy combined have not so many pupils.

These are the days of statistics. You read of the resources of this great country, its revenues, the number of soldiers in the army, and about our famous ships of war.

All these things pale into insignificance when compared with the fact that more than one-fifth of the people of the United States are pupils or teachers in institutions of learning.

The Hollanders brought the free public school to America. They had it at home, and established it here. Holland was the birthplace of the modern public school.

John of Nassau, said, 300 years ago: "Soldiers and patriots educated in free schools are better than all armies, arsenals, armories, munitions, alliances and treaties that can be had or imagined in the world."

Victor Hugo said: "Open a school and you close a prison."

Ex-Mayor Hewitt, of New York, said: "Every dollar spent in education is a dollar saved."

It is a mighty institution. Study it at every opportunity and do what you can to help on its grand work.

BLESSINGS—THERE'S A REASON

Rome, Dec. 24.—At a private audience yesterday, Mgr. Kennedy, rector of the American College, in addition to extending Christmas greetings in behalf of himself and the college, presented to the pope \$27,827, an offering of Peter's Pence from the Most Rev. Edmund F. Prendergast, Archbishop of Philadelphia. The pope sent his blessing to the American College and asked Mgr. Kennedy to convey his Christmas greetings to archbishop Prendergast.

SUGGESTIVE HISTORY

Says the Western Catholic of Vancouver, B. C.: "Convents and monasteries were closed by the civil authorities of Portugal and the sisters were dispersed. Seven of one community came to a town called Ontario in the state of Oregon, where all except a few are Protestant. The business men of Ontario put up about \$10,000 for a new hospital to be conducted by the Portuguese sisters. This little history is suggestive."—Sacred Heart Review.

The friend who sent us the above clipping makes this significant remark: "This town evidently needs the distribution of a few copies of The Menace among the 'business men' of the community."

THEY SHOULD BE WATCHED

A Catholic priest in Berlin, Wis., is a circular said:

"The time is not far distant when the Roman churches, by order of the pope, will refuse to pay the school taxes; and sooner than pay the agent or collector, will put a bullet through his breast. This order can come at any time from Rome, and it will come as suddenly as the pulling of a trigger of a gun, and of course this will be obeyed, as it comes from God Almighty."

The above quotation was published in the editorial columns of The Progressive Thinker, as copied from the original circular, Jan. 6, 1892.

When a papal priest gets mad at those of his people who read the Bible, it is proof that the Bible condemns the system he advocates.

## THE MARTYRDOM OF FERRER

BY JAY FOX

THE Roman church murdered Francisco Ferrer Oct. 13th, 1909. Ferrer was not a revolutionist in the active sense of the word. He was a teacher. He believed that all lasting revolution must begin in the youth. He did not fire a gun, he flashed a thought. His barricade was built of books. He practiced the logic of the church. He said, "Give me the minds of your children for a few years and in one generation the revolution will be achieved and there will be no reaction; for the rebels will know what to do after the battle. I will teach them only the simple truth. I will not ram a dogma into their heads. I will not conceal from them one iota of fact. I will teach them not what to think, but how to think."

The Roman church never took kindly to anybody who could think outside of its priesthood. It early learned that a thinker soon ceased to be a believer. So it pressed the lid down tight on all knowledge. It substituted the prayer book and the lives of the saints for science. It hounded every man to death who dared utter a word of truth that conflicted with the "truths" it taught. It ruled the world for centuries. The period of its domination is known in history as "The Dark Ages." Dark because not a ray from the light of truth was permitted to enlighten its domain.

Of all the countries it ruled, only Spain remains in its grip; France and Portugal having lately thrown off the yoke. Ferrer tackled the monster in its lair. He challenged it to intellectual combat. He said: "I will put my mind and method against your entire priesthood. Let the children decide."

The children did decide. They flocked to the modern schools as fast as Ferrer could establish them. In a short while over sixty schools were giving the youth of Spain a taste of that for which it has hungered for a thousand years—Truth, simple and undefiled.

A secret council was held by the church, orders were given the government to "get" Ferrer, and close his schools. They "got" him and closed the schools. The shot that killed Ferrer rang around the world, and carried the modern school to every part of the globe. "Long live the modern school."



When Ferrer's body fell, riddled with bullets in Montjuich prison Reaction gave a ghoulish laugh and rejoiced that an advocate of progress was dead. The result is a story that has been repeated many, many times. It is the story that is celebrated in the expression, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." It is the story that Lowell sings when he tells us:

"For Humanity sweeps onward; where today the martyr stands, On the morrow crouches Judas with the silver in his hands; Far in front the cross stands ready, and the crackling fagots burn, While the booting mob of yesterday in silent awe return."

But yesterday's scattered ashes into history's golden urn. Notice since then in Spain has been the working out of things for which they killed him.

He died with the cry: "Long live the Modern Schools," upon his lips. Already the first long steps have been taken toward secular education.

He stood for the separation of church and state, and was hurried to his death by those who saw an injury to their financial interests on earth if this partnership with heaven were disturbed. Since then the first steps have been taken toward freedom in religion.

Ferrer, by his death, turned the eyes of the world upon backward, ignorant, corrupt, cruel Spain. He aroused an international indignation that strengthened the resistance of Spanish workers and compelled concessions from Spanish Rulers.

Ferrer is dead. His soul is marching on.

## WHISTLING IN THE DARK.

From several of our subscribers have come marked copies of a nasty little sheet published in some out-of-the-way town in Missouri and proclaiming itself a journal for the preservation of "American principles and American institutions." A perusal of the paper, which is rightly named "The Menace," shows it to be filled with the old worn out A. P. A. charges against the Catholic church which were so familiar to us in this city and state some fifteen years ago.

"The Little Red School House," "The Pope's Design on America," "Jesuits' Oath," "Dangers of the Hierarchy," and similar stuff abounds in the columns of The Menace. Our friends who have kindly sent us the copies in question need have no fear. The Menace is a thing to be laughed at, not feared. Its publishers are people who are unacquainted with the fact that the Civil War ended in 1865. They are creatures of a disordered liver. Their childish ravings will make no more impression on the public mind than the contents of a foxy air gun on the armor plate of a battleship.

It is fitting that The Menace is published in a backwoods village. It couldn't survive publicity. In a burrow it lives and in a burrow it will remain until its timely and unlamented death.—The Catholic Leader, San Francisco.

ABOUT THE PAPAL PLATFORM

A letter comes to The Menace asking, "where can be found the references as first reported or printed, so that in case I want to use the statement I can have the authority to substantiate a quotation of same."

The Menace desires very emphatically, to say that the quotations and statements made from issue to issue are correct. We have no desire to publish anything that cannot be clearly proven from authentic documents.

The Menace library is becoming so thoroughly and numerically strong in Roman Catholic literature there is no excuse for anything but complete and indisputable facts, taken from Roman Catholic authors and authorities.

Now then what shall we say about the Roman Catholic platform, which no priest, bishop or cardinal has attempted to disprove for the very good reason it is taken from their own documents.

The Encyclical and Syllabus of Pope Plus IX. (dated December 8, 1864, against errors, has been appropriately called "The pope's bull against civilization."

## PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

The scarcity of Catholic teachers in the Philippine Islands is deplorable. We are to be blamed for it.

The result is that non-Catholic school teachers obtain an influence over the minds of the young to our detriment. At times, this influence has been used to forward Protestant teachings in the school room. It had to be stopped by the bureau of education in the Philippine Islands, and an order was issued directing American school teachers to take no part in religious work even outside of school hours. We have a religious duty to perform in our colonies. Catholic school teachers are sadly in demand.

Syracuse (Catholic) Sun, December 8th, 1911.

The Roman Catholics have been given control in the Philippines, and you will notice what they do to American Protestant teachers there. When they control America, what about your schools, your teachers, your press, your free institutions and liberty? Can you take a hint or do you wait for a kick?

POPE LIKES AMERICA

"Rome certainly paid great homage to the newly made American cardinal during the past month. Wherever the prelate went you would hear: 'Where's Farley? Where's O'Connell? And I want to tell you his holiness became more interested in the Americans every day. Whenever I attended an audience he spoke frequently of America, and I heard him declare that the hope of the church centered in this country.'"

This was the declaration of William F. Kenney, one of the editors of the Boston Globe, who had gone to Rome with the then Archbishop O'Connell of Boston.—New York Globe.

CIRCULATE IT WIDELY

This issue should be circulated widely among all classes, especially among union labor people. This form will be preserved and we will be able to furnish them in any quantity at any time. Get busy and see that your friend, the union man, is informed as to what the Jesuits are trying to do to him.

MENACE SAMPLE COPY RATES

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